

Serial No. 10/002,361
Amendment dated January 12, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 12, 2003

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An improved dental prosthesis comprising:
- an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant, having a threaded metal shaft which is to be received in a threaded bore formed in the dental implant;
- said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis;
- a concave groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis;
- and O-ring of elastomeric material stretched about said implant abutment and elastically retained in said groove, said O-ring having a cross-sectional diameter substantially greater than the depth of said groove such that an outer portion of said O-ring projects from an outer axial surface of said implant abutment; and
- an appliance having a retainer cavity including a retainer surface closely telescopically mateable onto said outer axial implant abutment surface, there being a complementary groove in said retainer surface shaped to closely match and receive said outer portion of the O-ring, said O-ring thus making a resilient retentive fit between said appliance and said implant abutment.
2. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 1 wherein said implant abutment includes a tapered surface for guiding engagement with said retainer cavity of said appliance.
3. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 2 wherein said implant abutment is threadedly connected to said implant.
4. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 3 wherein said implant abutment is formed from metal.
5. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a denture.

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6. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 5 wherein said appliance is formed from porcelain fused to metal.

7. (Currently amended) An implant dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment affixed at a lower end to a dental implant, having a threaded metal shaft which is to be received in a threaded bore formed in the dental implant,

said implant abutment having an implant abutment axis; and

a concave circumferential groove in said implant abutment extending substantially transverse to said axis and a resilient retentive element between an appliance and said implant abutment for co-operating with said circumferential groove;

S, said appliance having a hollow retainer cavity with an outwardly and downwardly taper relative to said implant abutment axis forming a retainer surface telescopically mateable on an upwardly an inwardly extending ~~forming a mating tapered surface on said axial implant abutment including coupling means for a resilient retentive fit between said mating tapered surfaces.~~

8. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 7 wherein said tapered surfaces are in frictional engagement.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Amended) The prosthesis of claim 7 where said resilient retentive element is in a plane generally transverse to the axis of said implant abutment.

11. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 10 wherein said retentive element is an O-ring in complimentary grooves in said tapered surfaces.

12. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and

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processed into a partial denture.

13. (Original) The prosthesis of claim 4 wherein said appliance is formed from metal and processed into a splintered bar.

14. (Newly Presented) A dental prosthesis comprising:

an implant abutment having a threaded metal shaft adapted to be received in a threaded bore formed in a dental implant;

a concave groove extending around an outer circumference of said implant abutment;

an appliance having an inner surface adapted to be mateable with an outer surface of said implant abutment; and

means for resiliently holding said appliance to said implant abutment.

15. (Newly presented) The prosthesis of claim 14 where the means for resiliently holding said appliance to said implant abutment comprises an O-ring positioned in said concave groove.

16. (Newly presented) The prosthesis of claim 15 where the appliance has a groove in an inner surface thereof adapted to receive said O-ring.